

If Sinclair Broadcasting decides to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election, it is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is important for the media to be as balanced as possible. Sinclair earned a rebuke for Senator McCain once before and deserved it. When government begins to serve the desires of one segment of the population at the significant expense of another, it is time for change. We certainly hope the FCC sees its responsibility as a balanced one.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.